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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

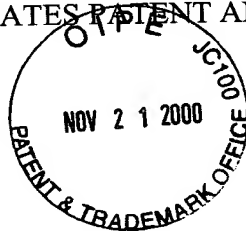
In re the Application of

Tetsuo TANIGUCHI et al.

Application No.: 09/593,800

Filed: June 15, 2000

For: STAGE DEVICE AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS



Group Art Unit: 2877

Examiner: P. Natividad

Docket No.: 106514

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 24, 2000, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-9. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-27 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that a search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP §803 clearly states that "[i]f the search and examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative

examination by the Patent Office. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:PAB

Date: November 21, 2000

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